(b) and (c) The question considerable workload for any agent would not arise as all General Sales Agents are expected to serve the airline effectively in the areas specified as under:

(1) servicing of passengers and sub-agents;

(2) effecting reservations for passengers for their travel;

(3) issuance of tickets against collection of payments;

(4) submission of sales reports to the airline every fortnight along with payments on due dates, i.e. twice monthly;

(5) assisting passengers for any change in reservations and processing refunds for unutilised portion of the tickets.

Menance of aids in kovam coast

1806. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the menace of AIDS in Kovalam Coast from the foreign tourists and contamination from garments; and

(b) if so what preventive measures Government propose to take to check the disease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Surveillance on the disease is being kept. State Directorate of Health Services, the Incharges of S.T.D. Clinics, Incharge of State Health Education Bureaus and Incharge of Blood Banks of the country have been alerted time and again to keep in mind the signs and symptoms of the disease and report as and when such suspect cases occur.

In order to arouse public awareness especially high risk groups like homosexuals and blood donors the State Health Education Bureaus have been requested to provide the requisite health education to those attending STD Clinics, Blood Banks etc.

Instructions have been issued to Medical and technical personnel to use adequate sterile injection equipment for medical purposes; blood and plasma organisations should provide relevant information about AIDS to intending donors to promote and encourage voluntarily self evaluation policy.

Time and again instructions are issued to State|UTs Health authorities to keep strict watch on AIDS. They are also provided relevant material on AIDS as and when received from World Health Organisation and other agencies doing research on AIDS outside the country.

Rail link between Ahmedabad and Hyderabad

1807. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide a direct railway link between Ahmedabad and Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Blackmarketing in railway reservations

1808. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unabated blackmarketing in the railway reservations at the New Delhi/Delhi railway stations in connivance with the travel agents despite the various measures claimed to have been taken by Government to check it; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to identify the railway officials and the travel agents involved in the racket to curb the growing menace

of blackmarketing in railway reservations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Complaints of resale of reserved tickets at premia by unauthorised travel agents are received from time to time.

(b) Since April, 1985, 4140 persons indulging in anti-social activities including cornering of reserved accommodation in Delhi area have been apprehended and prosecuted apart from imposing punishments on 74 railway staff found committing irregularities since 1.1.85. To make identification and apprehension of unauthorised persons resorting to cornering of reserved accommodation easier, it has been decided to license some Travellers' Service Agents to purchase tickets and secure reservations on behalf of passengers in return for prescribed service charges.

Vizag port transit godown on fire

1809. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that property worth lakhs of rupees was destroyed recently in a major fire that broke out in the Vizag Port transit godown;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the fire incident and what action has been taken by Government in the matter in case no inquiry was conducted?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fire broke out from sugar bags stacked in transit sheds of Visakhapatnam Port on 23rd & 24th October, 1985. Fire was put out on each occasion immediately by the Port Fire Service. Approximately 800 tonnes of sugar was damaged. The transit sheds No. 3 & 4 also got affected Fire appeared to have occured because of the presence of phosphorous compounds in sugar .

(c) National Institute of Sugar, Kanpur. has been requested to depute their experts to ascertain the cause of fire. A departmental enquiry has been conducted by the Harbour Master and a sample of the cargo tested at Andhra University. As per physical and chemical analysis presence of phosphorous compounds in sugar appeared to be the cause of fire. Adequate steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents. Fire fighting equipment and fire watch arrangements are being kept round the clock. The consignee-State Trading Corporation-was requested to arrange the clearance of the sugar stocks immediately on landing.

Rapid transit system in Bangalore city

1810. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for the consideration of Central Government for rapid transit system in Bangalore city; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the instance and cost of the Karnataka State Government, Metropolitan Transport Project (Railways) Madras has carried out feasibility study for provision of Rail Rapid Transit System and Suburban Services for Bangalore city. The report and estimate for the project has been forwarded to the State Government. The provision of Rapid Transit System being essentially a Metropolitan Transport scheme for easing the commuter traffic conditions, the State Government has been advised to obtain the clearance of Planning Commission for the execution of the project with provision of funds outside normal Railway plan with dividend free liability.